objects discovered during excavation on the monument. The exposed octagonal wall running round the mound has already been conserved.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Development of tourist spots in Maharashtra

3367. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes of Government to develop tourists spots in the country, particularly in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) the number of foreign tourists who visited Maharashtra during the year 2002-2003; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the flow of foreign tourists in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Development of tourism in Eastern States

3368. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a special task force for the development of tourism in the Eastern States;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard; and

(c) if not, what other steps are being taken to tap the tourist potential of the Eastern States and develop the infrastructure to attract more number domestic as well as foreign tourists to those States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the Ninth Plan, 181 projects with Central financial assistance of Rs. 3629.01 lakhs were sanctioned in the Eastern States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal.